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January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am deeply disturbed by the travesty of justice caused by legal actions that have been and are being taken against Microsoft. Microsoft, in fact, is one of the primary contributors to the success of our economy. The efficiency and productivity of our entire workforce has been dramatically increased by Microsoft's software.

Along with other companies such as Intel, Microsoft has enabled computer users to speedily communicate and handle complicated problems efficiently on PCs and networks by replacing numerous cumbersome, complicated and slow operating systems with Windows and other products that are amazingly effective and economical.

Before Microsoft's software was available, only engineers and sophisticated mathematicians were able to program and operate the massive computers in use. Now anyone who can read and write can expertly operate their PCs and business networks.

As a reward for this massive contribution to our economy and improvement in the work forces's efficiency, Microsoft has been severely penalized by actions brought by competitors who could not develop competitive systems and turned instead to the government in an attempt to limit Microsoft's effectiveness.

Even though the proposed settlement is severe, Microsoft has agreed to make future programs easier for other companies to release their products. Windows XP will have a device that enables other companies to add or remove computer attributes built into Windows, so if anyone comes up with better programs, (which I doubt will happen) these programs can be easily introduced into new computers.

Yet some greedy State Attorney Generals are trying to exceed the already unjust penalties proposed for Microsoft and AOL is bringing a lawsuit which can only lead to more unnecessary and unproductive litigation to the detriment of all except attorneys.

Let's conclude this hassle and get on with making America more efficient.

*R. M. Laird*  
R. Milton Laird  
cc. Senator Dianne Feinstein

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